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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN AFRICA, UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/C.1/46/L.38, A/C.1/46/L.41, A/C.1/46/L.14, and A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended

Twelfth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered four statements of programme budget implications concerning disarmament matters submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.5/46/40, A/C.5/46/42, A/C.5/46/43 and A/C.5/46/44). During its consideration of these statements, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. The financial implications of the draft resolutions to which the Secretary-General's statements relate can be summarized as follows:

	Non-conference servicing	Conference servicing
	$	$
A/C.5/46/40 (A/C.1/46/L.38)	10 300 a/	853 600 b/
A/C.5/46/42 (A/C.1/46/L.41)	55 300	-
A/C.5/46/43 (A/C.1/46/L.14)	600 000	-
A/C.5/46/44 (A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended)	318 500	326 200 b/
Total	984 100	1 179 800

a/ To be absorbed within the overall level of resources under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

b/ To be covered by the provision for conference servicing in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that in view of the provision made in the proposed programme budget to cover not only meetings which had already been programmed but also those that would be subsequently authorized, no additional appropriation is requested under section 32 of the proposed programme budget to cover the conference-servicing requirements, estimated at $1,179,800, related to the draft resolutions.

4. The financial implications of implementing the four draft resolutions amount to $984,100 for non-conference-servicing activities; as indicated above, the Secretary-General estimates that only $10,300, related to draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.38, could be absorbed within the provisions made in the proposed programme budget. Furthermore, notwithstanding the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 regarding the designation of alternatives, the Advisory Committee notes that in respect of draft resolutions A/C.1/46/L.14 ($600,000) and A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1 as orally amended ($318,500) "no activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993" (para. 17 of A/C.5/46/44 and para. 10 of

A/C.5/46/43). With regard to draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.41, for which the financial implications total $55,300, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 13 of A/C.5/46/42, indicates several low priority activities from which resources could be redeployed.

5. The Advisory Committee regrets that the approved procedure has not been followed in all cases; in this connection, it reiterates its previous observations:

> "The Committee strongly stresses the need for the Secretariat, when preparing statements of programme budget implications of draft resolutions and decisions, not to abdicate its responsibility to provide, for consideration of intergovernmental bodies concerned, precise indications of alternatives in the event that total additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available within the contingency fund." 1/

6. Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.38, discussed in document A/C.5/46/40, relates to the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean; as noted in paragraph 3 of A/C.5/46/40, the proposed programme budget includes provision "for substantive services for the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and preparation for and substantive servicing of the Conference". Additional costs of $10,300 for the travel of representatives of national liberation movements would arise; however, as indicated above, these costs would be absorbed. In response to inquiries, the Committee was informed that the amount of $10,300 relates to the travel of representatives from the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

7. The financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.41, amount, as shown above, to $55,300; as stated in paragraph 4 of A/C.5/46/42, this relates to the holding of a five-day meeting at Addis Ababa of the Group of Experts designated by the United Nations in cooperation with the OAU. As shown in paragraph 9 of A/C.5/46/42, the amount of $55,300 comprises $6,900 for temporary assistance for meetings and $48,400 in substantive costs. In paragraph 10, the Secretary-General states that "it is not anticipated that the cost of $55,300 ... could be absorbed from within the provisions under section 5 of the proposed programme budget".

8. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 5 that "interpreters and translators would be hired locally for this meeting ...". Notwithstanding that statement, the Committee believes that the related cost of $6,900 should be financed under section 32 of the proposed programme budget; the estimate of additional non-conference-servicing requirements attributable to draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.41 should therefore be revised to $48,400.

9. Draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.14 (see A/C.5/46/43) calls for the administrative expenses of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to be financed from the regular budget. A breakdown of the

estimated requirements of $600,000 is provided in paragraph 6 of A/C.5/46/43. The Advisory Committee notes that this is over and above the resources included in the proposed programme budget to cover the posts of the directors of the centres.

10. The Advisory Committee has serious reservations regarding the recommendation of the First Committee on the financing of the regional centres. The Committee recalls that in section VI of its resolution 45/248 B, the General Assembly reaffirmed that "the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters"; it also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee and expressed "its concern at the tendency of its substantive committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters".

11. Moreover the Advisory Committee believes that a decision, such as that taken by the First Committee, should have been preceded by a comprehensive report containing a full description of the centres' programmes of work, the related costs, and adequate justification for the amount of administrative support that is being requested. The report would also have provided specific information, not only on the amount of voluntary contributions received but on the expenditures incurred by the centres. Such information, as well as a description of any administrative problems might have provided at least a partial rationale for such a decision. The Committee also points out that unless sufficient voluntary contributions are received to finance substantive activities it is doubtful whether mere financing of the administrative expenses from the regular budget would in and of itself ensure the financial viability of the centres.

12. In fact, the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/59 E of 4 December 1990 (A/46/365) makes no such case for the financing of the administrative expenses. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that although the report describes the activities of each centre no indication of the related costs is provided. Under headings entitled "Staffing and finance", the Secretary-General indicates the voluntary contributions which have been pledged or received for each centre since submission of his previous report (A/45/573); however, no data on the overall financial positions of the centres have been provided.

13. The Secretary-General also emphasizes that, "under the terms of the General Assembly resolutions establishing the three centres, the basis for their financing has been existing resources and voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations" (para. 19). Bearing this in mind, the Secretary-General, with reference to the regional centre in Africa, emphasizes the importance of continued voluntary contributions "if the Centre's programme of work is to be maintained and increased, and in view of the continuing financial crises facing the United Nations" (para. 20).

14. Furthermore, the Secretary-General states that "in accordance with the terms on which the regional centre in Latin America and the Caribbean was established, and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre's various work programmes", hence the need for voluntary contributions (para. 44). Similarly, in paragraph 54, the Secretary-General makes an appeal for voluntary contributions to the regional centre in Asia and the Pacific. Thus, far from requesting a change in the financing of the centres, the Secretary-General, in explicit terms, indicated that this was not an option.

15. As stated above, the basis for the financing of the regional centres, as stipulated by the General Assembly was to be existing resources and voluntary contributions. Although by its resolution 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish the posts of Directors, to be funded from the regular budget, the Advisory Committee sees no reason to modify the underlying policy regarding the financing of the centres. The Committee also points out that, as shown in paragraph 6 of A/C.5/46/43, the amount of $600,000 requested would provide for the salaries and common staff costs of 22 local level posts, thereby increasing the regular budget staffing table of the Organization. In this connection, the Committee also recalls recommendation 62 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts 2/ which states that "a serious effort should be made by the Secretary-General to discourage the present practice of transferring extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget".

16. The question also arises whether, in the event that voluntary funding of the centres' substantive activities falls short of expectations, financing of those activities under the regular budget will, in future, be requested. Should that occur, the Committee is convinced that other requests of a similar nature would be forthcoming.

17. Without prejudice to its above observations, the Advisory Committee, recommends that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.14, the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee, bearing in mind their respective responsibilities, would advise the Assembly as to the actual level of administrative support which will "ensure the continued financial viability of the centres". To that end, the Advisory Committee also recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report to the Fifth Committee, providing, inter alia, a full disclosure of the financial position of each centre, with supporting documentation, the proposed programme of work, and a functional breakdown of all staff, whether administrative or operational. On the basis of this report, it would be the Advisory Committee's intention to submit recommendations as to the level of administrative resources to be funded from the regular budget, by means of either a subvention or otherwise. Pending receipt of that report, the Advisory Committee recommends no change to the existing arrangements for financing the centres.

18. As stated in paragraph 6 of A/C.5/46/44, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended, "the Secretary-General would establish and maintain at the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms"; he would also establish a panel of governmental technical experts which would hold three sessions in New York in 1992. The related non-conference-servicing requirements amount to $318,500, comprising $258,500 for the travel and subsistence allowance for 18 governmental experts, $49,200 for consultants (both actual consultancy services and the travel and subsistence of consultants to attend the sessions of the experts) and $10,800 for three work-months of temporary assistance.

19. In paragraph 14, the Secretary-General states that "no provision has been made under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for the holding of meetings of the panel ..." and "it is not anticipated that the cost of $318,500 ... could be absorbed from within the appropriations proposed under section 5". In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that in paragraph 5.22 of the proposed programme budget, under the heading of disarmament studies, the Secretary-General explains that a provision of $329,800 (at revised 1991 rates) has been included in the proposed programme budget and distributed among general temporary assistance, ad hoc expert groups, consultants and travel of staff in anticipation of disarmament studies which may be authorized by the General Assembly in 1992-1993. However, the Committee notes that no such studies have as yet been authorized for the biennium to be covered by this provision.

20. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee believes that the amount of $329,800 (at revised 1991 rates) can be appropriately used for this purpose; consequently no additional appropriation is needed. Furthermore, although the breakdown of the amount of $318,500 by object of expenditure does not dovetail exactly with the breakdown of the $329,800 in the proposed programme budget, the Committee, noting that the overall amount is sufficient, recommends that amounts be redeployed among the objects of expenditure as needed.

21. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Committee, there is scope for economy; i.e. the estimated amount of $318,500 is excessive, particularly the amount included for consultancy services. The Committee therefore expects that the activities will be administered judiciously with a view to achieving savings. In keeping with its previous observations in respect of disarmament studies, the Committee also believes that in future the structure for undertaking such activities should be reconsidered, particularly in respect of the number of experts, the number of sessions convened, and the amount of consultancy services.

22. The Advisory Committee points out that should requests for disarmament studies arise at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General can submit the related requirements at that time.

23. Bearing in mind its observations in the preceding paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.1/46/L.38, A/C.1/46/L.41, A/C.1/46/L.14, and A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended, an additional expenditure would be required under section 5, Disarmament affairs activities as follows:

	$
A/C.1/46/L.38	-
A/C.1/46/L.41	48 400
A/C.1/46/L.14	a/
A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended	-
Total	48 400

a/ To be determined - see para. 17 above.

24. The Advisory Committee notes that the additional requirements of $48,400 will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines for the operation and use of the Contingency Fund. Accordingly, such additional appropriations as may be requested by the Secretary-General will be considered in the context of a consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly at the end of its current session in accordance with section C of the annex to resolution 42/211.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8), document A/44/7/Add.1, para. 10 and ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/45/7/Add.1-15), document A/45/7/Add.8, para. 9.

2/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), para. 50.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Status of technological innovations in the United Nations

Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations

Integrated management information system project

Optical disk storage and retrieval system

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General relating to:

(a) Status of technological innovations in the United Nations (A/C.5/46/1 and Corr.1);

(b) Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations (A/C.5/46/5);

(c) Integrated management information system project (A/C.5/46/24);

(d) Optical disk storage and retrieval system (A/C.5/46/26).

During consideration of the above items, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Committee.

A. Status of technological innovations in the United Nations

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly requested in resolution 45/254 C that an updated report on the status of technological innovations be submitted in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The report of the Secretary-General summarizes developments in technological innovations during 1991.

3. According to paragraph 3 of the report (A/C.5/46/1), the Secretariat has continued its efforts to place a computer on the desk of each staff member (excluding trades and crafts and security staff). For example, the Committee notes that by the end of 1991 it is expected that 3,000 computers will have been installed at Headquarters, New York, which represents an increase of 1,400 during 1990-1991; the number of computers at Headquarters is expected to increase to 4,000 in 1992-1993.

4. The Committee was not fully convinced of the need of one computer per staff member in view of the different tasks performed by departments and the wide range of functions of staff who may not always require a computer in their work assignment. The Committee notes that the General Assembly has not set an implementation target for automation and cautions against the concept of one computer per staff member throughout the Secretariat.

5. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that so far there are no criteria for the allocation of computers which are provided to departments according to their requests. The Committee points out that there is a need for a systematic approach in the development of desktop technology with guidelines and criteria based on actual operational needs, taking into account the current status of office automation. The Committee therefore recommends that the Electronic Services Division develop a long-term strategy on automation based on the specific needs of each department according to the tasks to be performed to ensure a more rational distribution of desktop technology.

6. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the report, the Electronic Services Division purchased a limited supply of laptop and notebook computers together with portable printers to support staff on mission, including peace-keeping operations, and for conferences. The Committee notes that sizeable computer installations are planned in 1992 for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at Cartagena, Colombia. The Committee trusts that such equipment will enable a smaller number of staff to meet conference requirements in a more timely manner and to perform in peace-keeping operations more effectively.

7. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the standard price for a class III microcomputer, including maintenance and printer, is $4,100 at 1992-1993 rates. The Committee is of the view that the above budgeted amount is high in view of the declining market prices for computers and that

computers of a good quality can be acquired commercially at lower cost, taking into account their short life-span and the large-scale needs of the Organization.

B. Status of telecommunications activities in the United Nations

8. The Committee recalls that in 1989 the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) decided by resolution 50:

> "that the United Nations telecommunication network may carry the traffic of the specialized agencies which participate voluntarily on condition that:
>
> "the specialized agencies would pay for the telecommunications service based on the expenses of operating the service by the United Nations and tariffs, established by administrations within the framework of current regulations and practices;" (A/C.5/46/5, annex II)

The Committee welcomes that the United Nations is taking the lead to act as a common carrier for the telecommunications of the specialized agencies and the organs, offices and programmes of the United Nations. The Committee notes that a well-functioning service may result in significant savings to Member States in the long term.

9. The Committee was informed that the operational arrangements for implementation of the proposed global telecommunications network for the United Nations common system have not yet been worked out due to a lack of information from the specialized agencies regarding their participation and requirements. The Committee notes that a questionnaire was sent to all United Nations agencies to assess existing traffic patterns for various telecommunications services and projected requirements; however, the responses did not cover regional and field offices and the information relates to only 21 locations with estimated telecommunications expenditures of $40.1 million system-wide (see table 3) while the total activities are estimated to amount to at least $100 million a year (para. 44 of the report).

10. Furthermore, a detailed breakdown of telecommunications expenditures per individual countries is not available. The Committee further notes that table 4 indicates 36 locations justifying United Nations common network nodes where there is heavy telecommunications traffic; this does not cover a large number of regional and field offices on which no information is available. As indicated in paragraph 50 of the report, during 1991-1992 a more thorough study would be conducted to assess the requirements of United Nations offices in the above 36 locations and of all other offices not covered by previous surveys.

11. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that in view of the lack of basic information and the uncertainty with regard to the scope of a global telecommunications network depending on traffic projections and usage by the agencies, the Electronic Services Division was at present not in a position to submit a detailed cost estimate for implementation of the project. The Committee notes that as a result, it is not possible to compare the reliability and quality as well as the cost-effectiveness of the proposed United Nations global telecommunications network with existing national/commercial facilities. The Committee further notes that the United Nations has not received any commitments from user agencies and that the contractual relations with other users and the financing of the project are uncertain. Bearing in mind that the use of the United Nations telecommunications network is on a voluntary basis, the standard financial arrangements therefore need to be worked out with the specialized agencies based on their traffic projections and usage.

12. According to paragraph 53 of the report, "it is expected that the startup and recurrent costs associated with the operations of the network will be financed from additional income from use by specialized agencies". Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the project would only be financed by agencies once the global telecommunications network is fully operational. The Committee points out that as a result the United Nations first would have to pay the startup costs which might be reimbursed by the agencies following operation of the expanded United Nations network.

13. In view of the above, the Committee believes that the operational arrangements for implementation of a common carrier system need to be further developed together with detailed cost estimates, in close consultation with the special agencies. At such time as the operational plan is clearly worked out and agreed to by the specialized agencies, a comprehensive proposal for expansion of the existing telecommunications network should be submitted to the General Assembly, including the implementation schedule, cost estimates and plan of financing.

14. That report should also contain a cost-benefit analysis, comparing the rates of national/commercial communication carriers with the current and proposed rates of the United Nations network for comparable service and maintenance lines. In this connection, the Committee recalls its recommendation in its report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 1/ "given developments in technology and the changes in rates charged by national/commercial carriers, the Committee trusts that the report [of the Secretary-General] will include an analysis of the merits of the United Nations maintaining or expanding its existing network". This information has not been provided in the current report of the Secretary-General and should be included in the next report.

15. In the meantime, the Committee recalls that the estimate for section 33D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 includes telecommunications services as indicated in paragraph 33D.35 of that document, 2/ namely the provision of telecommunications facilities to United

Nations offices and to organizations within the United Nations system and telecommunications support and network facilities to the Organization.

16. With regard to the proposed satellite earth station sub-network, the Committee notes from paragraph 16 of the report that four additional earth stations are planned. The Committee was informed that the project was intended to provide reliable, independent communication links in case of emergencies and for support of peace-keeping operations. Considering the high average costs of one medium-scale earth station of over $600,000, additional staffing requirements, the increasing number of peace-keeping operations and the budgetary constraints, the Committee reiterates its recommendation in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 with regard to the Secretary-General's proposal for setting up a satellite earth station at Rawalpindi.

C. Integrated management information system project

17. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, by its resolution 43/217, approved the implementation of phase I of the integrated management information system (IMIS) at a total cost not to exceed $28 million at 1988 rates. The third progress report of the Secretary-General on IMIS (A/C.5/46/24) indicates the current status of the project, plans until 1993 with estimated expenditures, and the implementation schedule.

18. In this connection, the Committee points out that the content and language of the third progress report on IMIS is highly technical with excessive use of jargon and that the terminology is difficult to understand. The Committee therefore requests that the next progress report on IMIS should be presented in a more comprehensible manner, including specific data and tables on the implementation schedule and related costs.

19. The Committee notes that all potential IMIS users at Headquarters have accepted the external design of IMIS and expect improved operations in administration and management that would provide greater uniformity in the application of rules and procedures, expedite administrative actions and enhance efficiency. The Committee was informed that the advantage of the new system for regional commissions and field offices would be their ability to process administrative actions in a more consistent manner and to improve coordination and communication with Headquarters; all offices would be given the same support as an integral part of the new system.

20. The Committee notes that the developed software would be made available to other agencies free of cost and without charging a usage fee, and that only costs incurred in making the system available would have to be reimbursed. The Committee was informed that no fees are charged for the development of the system and the reimbursement of costs is for direct expenditures such as printing and reproduction costs and per diem of United Nations officials. In this regard, the Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to seek fair and reasonable reimbursement for actual costs incurred.

21. The Committee welcomes the interest of agencies in the effective use of IMIS which will facilitate the development of common standards of accounting, enhanced reporting on accountability and the presentation of financial statements pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 44/183 and 45/235, as recommended by the Advisory Committee and the Board of Auditors (paras. 16 and 17 of the report).

22. With regard to the implementation of IMIS, the Committee notes from paragraph 21 of the report that the workflow analysis, internal design, programming, conversion and installation of the new system will be completed at Headquarters by the end of 1993; at offices away from Headquarters it will be completed during the first half of 1994, once the system is fully tested and operational at Headquarters.

23. The Committee notes from paragraph 36 of the report that "it is not possible at this stage to estimate whether a revision in the total cost of the project as approved by the General Assembly at its forty-third session will be required since the actual costs of several contracts will be known only in 1992 and 1993, when the requests for proposals have been issued".

24. The Committee notes that the estimated expenditures for IMIS will be reviewed and a report submitted to the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, upon receipt of information regarding several contracts in 1992. Taking into account the continued delay in the implementation of the project since its inception and that the balance under the regular budget carried forward to 1992-1993 is projected to increase from $4.6 million to $6.1 million, the Committee sees no reason to change its recommendation in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 3/ for an appropriation of $7 million from the regular budget.

25. As regards the original proposal of total 2,000 terminals for all IMIS users at all duty stations, the Committee believes that a systematic survey should be made desk-to-desk to determine the actual needs for the effective use of IMIS.

26. With regard to maintenance of the system, the Committee notes from paragraph 50 of the report that the related costs will be examined as part of the preparation for the 1994-1995 programme budget and cannot be indicated at present. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that there is a warranty of one year on the purchase of all hardware and software. The Committee notes that the progress report should indicate clearly the order of magnitude of costs for maintenance of the project per year on a long-term basis.

27. The savings which are expected to at least partially offset the costs of IMIS are discussed in paragraphs 49 to 51 of the Secretary-General's report. The Committee notes that staff reductions in the administrative area were higher than the average staff reduction in the Secretariat during the retrenchment exercise in anticipation of the expected improvement of administrative processes; however, there is no indication in the report which specific systems have been cancelled and which processes and procedures have

become redundant. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that staff reductions as a direct result of the implementation of IMIS could not be indicated.

28. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/200 C, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, indicating, inter alia, "the results obtained with the introduction of technological innovations, including cost-benefit analyses, utilization capacity and budgeting and accounting practices". The Committee therefore expects the Secretary-General to indicate clearly in his next progress report the effects on productivity in those units which are particularly affected by IMIS and the systems and processes that have been made redundant. The Committee further requests that the number of posts that have been reduced in the various areas should be indicated as well as new posts that will be required for other functions for IMIS users.

29. In view of its observations in paragraphs 19 to 28 above, the Committee trusts that effective measures are being taken to ensure the early completion of the project, thus avoiding further increases in costs. The Committee expects that the substantial savings and the large number of benefits referred to in the second progress report (A/C.5/45/20) and the current report will be indicated in detail in the next report.

D. Optical disk storage and retrieval system

30. The Advisory Committee notes that implementation of phase I of the project has begun and the system will be expanded during 1992-1993 to include additional Secretariat and remote users at Headquarters and Geneva; further expansion of the system to other conference centres, including Vienna and the regional commissions, is planned for 1994-1995. The Committee was informed that the plans for expansion of the project to Vienna and the regional commissions have yet to be developed and the costs to be determined. The Committee expresses its concern that the implementation of the project and the related costs are not known and expects that a detailed implementation schedule and cost estimates will be submitted upon completion of the project at Headquarters and Geneva in 1992. The Committee also notes that little information was available on the telecommunications requirements and related costs which are an indispensable part of the remote use of this technology.

31. The Committee notes from paragraph 4 of the report (A/C.5/46/26) that 62 permanent missions to the United Nations responded to the questionnaire on data management and 52 indicated the use of computers. However, it is not clear to the Committee whether all missions were contacted and whether adequate effort was made in this regard. The Committee was informed that the advantage of the project to permanent missions is limited; only 39 missions indicated that the optical disk could replace the distribution of documents and 12 missions considered the most important use to be as a source of text for the preparation of internal papers. Furthermore, the number of retrieval stations will be limited. The Committee was informed that use of retrieval stations requires the presence of an operator and that documents would be

printed at the speed of one page per minute. In the circumstances, the Committee was not convinced that a large number of Member States would participate in the project in view of the limited cost benefits. However, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General follow-up with the permanent missions that have not yet responded to the survey.

32. The Committee notes from paragraph 6 of the report that the pace of expansion at Headquarters will be largely dependent upon the proposed implementation of a wiring and networking plan for the Headquarters complex of buildings. The Committee points out that the linkage with the wiring system is very important and that it should be carried out in such a way as to meet the needs of the Organization for computer, telephone and telecommunications activities. The Committee further notes that close coordination between the various units dealing with telecommunications activities, integrated management information system and the optical disk storage and retrieval system is essential to ensure cost-effective implementation of the projects and compatibility of the various technologies (see paras. 43 and 44 below).

33. The Committee is of the view that there is a lack of coordination in the area of workstations which are being procured by each department. The Committee believes that there is a need for closer coordination in the planned establishment and upgrading of workstations.

34. The Committee was informed that the installation of equipment for phase I will not be completed until the end of the first quarter of 1992. Taking this into account and its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 30 to 33 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General submit to it a report on implementation of phase I prior to undertaking phase II (see paras. 41-42 below) and updated proposals for phase II. Under the circumstances, the Committee reiterates its recommendation in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 4/ that the estimate of $1,381,000 for phase II ($1,487,400 at 1992-1993 rates) be reduced to $1 million in view of the considerable delay in the completion of phase I of the project.

35. The Committee notes from paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report, that "it is also expected that the total number of users will increase to 1,300 for the New York site and 600 for the Geneva site by the end of 1995. Users from Vienna, Nairobi and the regional commissions will be accommodated through the upgraded United Nations telecommunications network; however, Vienna and some of other duty stations may require additional inputting workstations for documents produced at those locations." The Committee is of the view that the actual needs should be clearly determined on the basis of a desk-to-desk assessment in the relevant areas.

36. According to paragraphs 20 and 23 of the report, the total expenditures for 1994-1995 are projected at $6.1 million and these relate only to the development costs for additional hardware and software necessary for users in the Department of Conference Services. The Committee notes from paragraph 22 of the report that the cost of upgrading an ordinary workstation is $5,000 and the full cost to acquire a station with maximum configuration is approximately $10,000. The Committee further notes that the costs for facilities management

in 1994-1995 are estimated to remain at the same level of $740,000 while the maintenance costs will increase from $226,900 in 1992-1993 to $500,000 in 1994-1995. According to paragraph 21 of the report, the annual maintenance costs for the equipment are estimated to stabilize at about 10 per cent of acquisition costs and the annual cost of facilities management services at $372,000; ongoing costs for the system are estimated at about $1 million after 1995.

37. The Committee was not convinced that the costs for facilities management would remain at the same level of $740,000 in 1994-1995 and decrease thereafter, taking into account that the costs for rental of equipment in 1992-1993 were initially underestimated in the amount of $505,900 5/ and that with the expansion of the project the facilities management costs usually increase. The Committee is also of the view that the estimated rate of annual maintenance costs at 10 per cent of the acquisition costs is low and normally does not stabilize on the long term, but rather increases through extensive use of equipment over a number of years. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the warranty for software is three months and for hardware one year and that the estimated maintenance costs are not part of the contract.

38. The Committee expresses its serious concern that after expiration of the warranty the Organization would have to rely on the contractor who may raise the maintenance costs substantially. Bearing in mind that the costs for maintaining the equipment are not fully known at present and that those costs may increase substantially after several years, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General negotiate with the contractor prior to the signature of the contract to extend the warranty period for the software and hardware and to provide for a maximum level of maintenance costs on a long-term basis (long-term maintenance contract in excess of five years). The Committee wishes to be informed of the results of this negotiation.

39. In view of its observations in paragraphs 36 and 37, the Committee is of the view that the costs for full implementation and maintenance of the project may be substantially higher to cover all users effectively and to maintain this system at a high standard. At the same time, the Committee notes that the return of investment from the project will be minor until 1995 and the long-term benefits uncertain.

40. The Committee notes from the report that the project is essentially for conference services while it was initially planned for a large number of users in various areas. The Committee points out the need for an organized assessment of the needs of all offices and the related costs.

41. The Committee is of the view that the budgetary requirements should not necessarily be entirely met from the regular budget, taking into account the potential for use in other areas, including extrabudgetary activities and peace-keeping operations. Bearing in mind that the potential benefits of the project as currently envisaged are limited, the Committee cautions against the planned expansion of the project in 1994-1995 unless the benefits have been clearly demonstrated and the total costs are established. To this end, the Committee proposes a waiting period at the end of phase I in 1992 to reassess the benefits and costs of the project.

42. The Committee therefore recommends approval of phase II for 1992-1993 subject to submission of a detailed performance report on the completion of phase I in 1992 (see para. 34 above), and updated proposals of the Secretary-General for phase II which should indicate how the estimated costs could be shared with peace-keeping operations and other extrabudgetary activities.

Conclusion

43. The Committee notes that the extent of coordination in design, procurement, implementation and operation of IMIS, the optical disk storage and retrieval system and telecommunications activities is not indicated in the Secretary-General's reports on the above projects. The Committee points out that it is essential that all organizational units involved in the planning and operation of the above systems closely coordinate their activities and harmonize their existing and planned use of technologies in order to prevent future incompatibilities, given the major investment involved, so as to ensure their efficient and cost-effective use. The Committee notes that it is therefore necessary to expand and strengthen the coordinating and monitoring mechanism existing in the form of the Technological Innovations Board and its subsidiary bodies, the Technological Innovations Board's Working Group at Headquarters and the Technological Innovations Committees at Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and at the regional commissions.

44. In view of the close interrelationship between the projects relating to the implementation of advanced technology in the United Nations, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General submit one comprehensive report on the status of all technological projects covering technological innovations in the United Nations, telecommunications activities, integrated management information system and optical disk storage and retrieval system, thus making it more coherent and transparent. The Committee further recommends that the report should also describe the information technology strategy for the Organization on a long-term basis.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 33D.11.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), para. 33D.35.

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 33A.7.

4/ Ibid., para. 32.15.

5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), table 32.14.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Revised estimates under sections 6, 36 and Income section 1

Fourteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/39) in which, pursuant to a request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), he submits revised estimates under section 6 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993. During its consideration of the report, the Committee received additional information from representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As stated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, "the present report attempts to supplement the information provided in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 on the activities carried out under the various subprogrammes by the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship", with particular emphasis on the review (requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/248 B) of the activities of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes.

3. The Department's programme of work relates to three subprogrammes: Special political questions and regional cooperation; Trusteeship and decolonization; and Special emergency programmes. Section II of the Secretary-General's report (paras. 10-37), supported by annexes I-III, reviews the staff requirements under these subprogrammes in the context of the activities that are carried out. In several instances, the Secretary-General cites areas where activities or workload has increased (e.g. paras. 12 and 20); however, as shown in annexes I and II, in other areas, decreased

outputs are projected for 1992-1993. The Secretary-General concludes in paragraph 42, that on balance, "there has been no significant decrease in the workload of the Department over the bienniums 1988-1989 and 1990-1991 under subprogramme 1, Special political questions and regional cooperation, and subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and decolonization, of programme 4". At the same time, he states that staff resources allocated to these two subprogrammes have, in fact, decreased over the same period.

4. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the increase in activities in certain areas under the two above-mentioned subprogrammes is not dramatic when viewed in relation to the number of available staff. Moreover, the Committee is of the view that the statistics provided in annexes I and II indicate that it would not be unreasonable to expect a higher delivery than what is shown, given the total staffing resources available.

5. The revised estimates for section 6 amount to $9,500,500. The following compares the revised total, broken down by programme, with the initial estimate:

Programme	Estimate in proposed programme budget	Estimate in A/C.5/46/39	Inc./dec.
	(In thousands of United States dollars) (at 1992-1993 rates)		
Policy-making organs	750.1	50.1	-
Executive direction and management	1 272.8	1 161.8	(111.0)
Programme of work	6 269.7	6 269.7	-
Programme support services	1 472.8	1 318.9	(153.9)
Total	9 765.4	9 500.5	(264.9)

6. As shown above, the revised estimates submitted in respect of section 6 are $264,900 (at 1992-1993 rates) lower than the initial estimates for this section included in the proposed programme budget of the Secretary-General; the reduction relates to executive direction and management and programme support. As discussed in paragraphs 46, 47, 51, and 52 of the Secretary-General's report, the decreased requirements are attributable to reductions under consultants, travel of staff, established posts (and common staff costs) and general temporary assistance.

7. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 46 of A/C.5/46/39 that the reduction in consultants ($72,900 at revised 1991 rates) is the result of a further review of the activities to be carried out under programme 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization. Because, as noted in paragraph 6.19 of the proposed programme budget, resources for consultancy services for the Department as a whole are consolidated under executive direction and management, the reduction is shown under that programme.

8. A reduction of $29,800 (at revised 1991 rates) is proposed under travel of staff, as discussed in paragraph 47 of A/C.5/46/39. As noted therein, that amount "is equivalent to the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee against the initial estimate".

9. A negative growth of $23,200 (at revised 1991 rates) is proposed under general temporary assistance (para. 52 of A/C.5/46/39); the balance of the total reduction is due to the proposed abolition of one P-2 post, as discussed in paragraph 51. The Advisory Committee does not object to the reductions under these objects of expenditure or to those discussed in paragraphs 7 and 8 above under consultants, and travel of staff.

10. While not entailing financial implications, the Secretary-General is also revising his proposal concerning the conversion of 12 temporary posts to established status. As indicated in paragraph 49, the Secretary-General had proposed that all 12 posts be converted (see paras. 6.24, 6.29 and 6.32 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993; 1/ however, he now proposes the conversion of only 5 posts (1 P-4 and 4 General Service) under subprogramme 1, Special political questions and regional cooperation. That request is justified in paragraph 13 of A/C.5/46/39 because of the continuing nature of the activities related to the posts.

11. Despite that reasoning, the Advisory Committee recommends that the posts be maintained as temporary. In this connection, it points out that, notwithstanding the Secretary-General's statement that the overall reduction in workload under subprogrammes 1 and subprogramme 2 (see para. 3 above) is not significant, the activities of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples have been decreasing for years; the Committee was informed that there have been significant savings against the appropriation for successive bienniums. That being the case, it may become necessary at some point to redeploy posts from subprogramme 2 to subprogramme 1. Accordingly, and taking into account that all staff may not be fully occupied (see para. 3 above), the Committee sees no reason to increase the permanent staffing table of the Department and thus give rise to a situation not unlike the present (see para. 14 below) where it will become necessary to place staff without functions.

12. In paragraphs 20 and 37 of A/C.5/46/39, the Secretary-General, for the reasons provided therein, withdraws his proposal, made in the proposed programme budget, to redeploy a D-2 post from the Division for Decolonization and Trusteeship to the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes. In this

connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, the Advisory Committee had reiterated its view that it was not convinced that the functions of that Unit did not duplicate those activities falling within the mandate of other agencies that provide emergency relief. The Committee also indicated that when the Secretary-General's review of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes, called for in General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, was made available to the Committee, with proper justification for the activities as well as the staffing of the Unit, the Committee would revert to the matter. 2/

13. That review has now been submitted in the context of the Secretary-General's revised estimates for section 6; as noted above, the Secretary-General now proposes that the D-2 post should be retained in the Division for Decolonization and Trusteeship. Notwithstanding the Secretary-General's assertion in paragraph 20 that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/47 "will have an impact on the secretariat's workload in respect of the preparation of additional reports" the Advisory Committee, on the basis of the statistics contained in annex II (see paras. 3-4 above), questions whether the post is essential in that Division. Under the circumstances, the Committee is not in a position to make a further recommendation at this point with regard to this post. The Committee believes that the functions of the post in the Department should be reviewed by the Secretary-General and reported to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In this connection, the Committee understands that the post is currently vacant. Bearing in mind what is stated above, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the post should remain vacant, pending submission of the above-mentioned review and consideration thereof by the General Assembly.

14. The Advisory Committee notes that, in keeping with its previous recommendation, 3/ no provision has been made under section 6 for the salary and common staff costs of the 12 remaining staff members from the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia who are still awaiting placement within the Secretariat. However, the Committee was informed that an amount of approximately $1.3 million will be reported in the context of the second performance report for 1990-1991 in respect of such staff. The observations of the Advisory Committee in this regard will be submitted in the context of its report on the second performance report for 1990-1991. However, at this time, it wishes to reiterate that, as provided for in staff regulation 1.2, staff members are subject to the authority of the Secretary-General and to assignment by him to any of the activities or offices of the United Nations. It therefore follows that Department heads, who are also subject to the same authority, should not refuse to accept qualified staff members seeking placement. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, if such staff are in need of additional training available in the Organization, it should be provided. In the view of the Advisory Committee, it is imperative that this problem be satisfactorily resolved in the near future.

15. Bearing in mind its observations in the preceding paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the reductions of $264,900 proposed

by the Secretary-General against his initial estimate. In this connection, the Committee notes that some of the proposed reductions (general temporary assistance and established posts) are new, while others dovetail (travel of staff) or exceed (consultants) the recommended reductions of the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993. 4/ The Committee also recalls that, as shown in table 1 at the end of chapter 1 of its first report, the recommendations on the estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 made by the Committee in that part of its report, as applied to section 6, resulted in reductions totalling $48,300. That amount included the reduction of $32,200 (at 1992-1993 rates) under travel of staff. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the revised estimates of $9,500,500 proposed by the Secretary-General be reduced by $16,100 to $9,484,400.

Notes

1/ Offical Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 6.12.

3/ Ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/45/7/Add.1-15), document A/45/7/Add.2, para. 7.

4/ Ibid., para. 6.14.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Revised estimates under section 33F, Administration, Vienna and Income section 2, General income

Fifteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/36) in which he submits revised estimates under section 33F, Administration, Vienna. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that in his proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General had stated that "no definite agreement has yet been reached with the international organizations at Vienna, either in the determination of the assignment of functions, or the appropriate share of all users in the cost of common and joint services" and that "concrete proposals will be submitted to the Assembly during the course of its forty-sixth session". 1/

3. In this connection, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 4 of his report (A/C.5/46/36) that "no conclusive results regarding the allocation of common services among the Vienna-based organizations or the related cost-sharing arrangements have been attained to date"; in paragraph 5 he states that he "will finalize his position on the redistribution of responsiblility for the various common services at Vienna and report to the General Assembly in due course".

4. With regard to the question of joint services with UNIDO, the Secretary-General proposes "to establish separate and independent personnel, financial and general services at Vienna as of 1 January 1991"; however, as a

transitional measure "it is also proposed to retain joint arrangements with UNIDO in the areas of finance and general services during the first six months of 1992". The Secretary-General's revised estimates of $38,563,200 under section 33F of the proposed programme budget reflect these proposals as well as administrative strengthening related to the Secretary-General's proposal for separate United Nations conference-services arrangements, discussed in his report A/C.5/46/30 and Add.1-2.

5. As discussed in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/36), the establishment of separate personnel, financial and general services at Vienna would entail the establishment of 29 new posts (four Professional and 25 General Service), the reclassification of 2 P-5 posts to the D-1 level, as well as various redeployments. It would also require the establishment of related computer systems in these areas and would give rise, inter alia, to other common service requirements.

6. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, these proposals warrant a careful and detailed examination in order to ascertain whether all are in fact justified. Unfortunately, the Advisory Committee has not been given the opportunity to make such a review at this session since the report of the Secretary-General was only received at the beginning of December, at a time when the pressure of work is intense. The Advisory Committee sees no reason why this report could not have been submitted by 15 October.

7. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 2/ wherein it noted that

> "The time of the Advisory Committee and of the Fifth Committee is increasingly devoted, during the latter part of a General Assembly session, to statements of programme budget implications and other matters arising out of the work of the Plenary and other Main Committees. As the end of the session nears, it therefore becomes increasingly difficult to give adequate attention to the many complicated matters of far-reaching importance that are raised in the various reports of the Secretary-General.
>
> "The Advisory Committee sees no reason for the reports of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly late in the session. The Committee expects that, starting with the fortieth session of the General Assembly, unless there are special circumstances, it will, by 15 October of each year, receive all reports which require its consideration, and which are not linked to draft resolutions recommended by the Main Committees or sponsored directly in Plenary."

8. In the circumstances, and pending a more detailed review of the proposals, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of $35,124,500 which it recommended for section 33F in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 3/ be maintained. It would be the

Advisory Committee's intention to report to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on this matter.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), para. 33F.6.

2/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/40/7), paras. 75-76.

3/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 33F.14.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Revised estimates under section 32D (Conference and library services, Vienna)

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/30 and Add.1-2) in which he submits revised estimates under section 32 D, Conference and library services, Vienna. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. As stated in paragraph 3, the report of the Secretary-General has been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/248 A of 21 December 1990. The Advisory Committee also recalls that in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, 1/ the Committee requested the Secretary-General "to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the outcome of the consideration by IAEA and UNIDO governing bodies of his proposal for a unified United Nations/UNIDO conference service under the management of the United Nations and serving IAEA for interpretation only".

3. In the same report the Committee requested the Secretary-General to "include detailed information on the full cost of such a service and outline the advantages and disadvantages of this approach" and, "in the event that agreement has not been reached with UNIDO on this service," to "present a proposal for a United Nations service with a full statement of financial implications, thereby enabling the Advisory Committee to make recommendations concerning the resources required under section 32 in respect of conference and library services at Vienna".

4. As stated in paragraph 6, IAEA has accepted the proposals of the Secretary-General on interpretation services. On the other hand, as stated in paragraph 1 of the appendix to A/C.5/46/30/Add.2, on 22 November 1991, the General Conference of UNIDO adopted decision GC.4/Dec.20, in which it inter alia,

> "Recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that it defer action affecting the status of the joint UNIDO-United Nations conference services until the relevant organizations had had an opportunity to study the detailed cost analysis."

By the same decision, the Conference requested the Director-General to continue consultations

> "... on the most efficient and cost-effective conference-service arrangements at the Vienna International Centre and to report to the Industrial Development Board at its eleventh session on the conclusions of those consultations", scheduled to be held in June 1993.

5. In this connection, the Advisory Committee also notes the statement in paragraph 16 of A/C.5/46/30/Add.2 that "UNIDO is willing to continue, within any framework, consultations with the United Nations Office at Vienna on conference-servicing arrangements so that the governing bodies of the two organizations could arrive at a final decision on the United Nations/UNIDO conference services in 1993".

6. The Secretary-General, as requested (see para. 2 above), has submitted proposals for the establishment of a separate United Nations conference service and the consequential revised estimates for section 32 D. As stated in paragraph 9, given the time frame, those estimates reflect the continuation of joint services in 1992 and the establishment of the United Nations service in 1993.

7. At the same time, however, the Secretary-General reiterates in paragraph 10 (A/C.5/46/30) that "a unified conference-service operation for the United Nations organizations at the Vienna International Centre under the auspices of the United Nations would provide the most effective, and ultimately the least costly arrangement". The Secretary-General also emphasizes that UNIDO "has not expressed objection in principle to the establishment of a unified conference service" but has recommended that any change in the present arrangements be examined as indicated above. That being the case, the Secretary-General proposes to "continue throughout 1992 to seek UNIDO agreement to participate in a unified conference service administered by the United Nations".

8. Bearing in mind the above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the current joint service arrangements continue for the year 1992. In making this recommendation, the Committee states its intention to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session detailed observations and recommendations on conference-service arrangements at Vienna with due regard

to the criteria of efficiency and economy, bearing in mind the contributions of Member States to both the United Nations and UNIDO. The Committee will take into account any developments that may result from further consultations among the parties concerned. This course of action would permit the Assembly to consider and take action on the Committee's recommendations; the decision of the General Assembly will be known by the time the Industrial Development Board takes a final decision in 1993 (see paras. 4-5 above).

9. In the circumstances, the Committee further recommends approval of the initial estimate for conference and library services in Vienna as contained in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget, i.e. $32,672,800. That amount included $6.7 million in resource growth (at revised 1991 rates), due, as reported by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, 2/ largely to previous underbudgeting. On the basis of expenditure data provided to it in respect of the bienniums 1988-1989 and 1990-1991, the Advisory Committee does not object to this growth.

10. In recommending the above, the Advisory Committee emphasizes that the 1993 portion of the appropriation should be regarded as provisional; i.e. requirements for 1993 and any related proposals for new posts will be discussed by the Committee in the context of its detailed review of conference-service arrangements in Vienna, and the recommendations it makes thereon.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 32.36.

2/ Ibid., para. 32.31.

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq

Seventeenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/64) on the establishment of the offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in February 1991, with the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), the Secretary-General had concluded that the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) had ended, and pursuant to his other responsibilities under that resolution, the Secretary-General had proposed the establishment of civilian offices in Baghdad and Tehran and a third country in the region. In his letter of 28 February 1991 to the Secretary-General, 1/ the President of the Security Council indicated that the members of the Council concurred with the arrangements proposed. Accordingly, UNOSGI offices, each including three military observers, replaced the UNIIMOG operations in Tehran and Baghdad in March and April 1991 respectively.

3. On 14 May 1991, in a letter to the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee had concurred in the Secretary-General's proposal to enter into commitments up to $3 million through December 1991 in connection with the above mentioned offices. In authorizing that commitment, however, the Committee had not pronounced itself on the means of financing that amount and had stated that that question should be decided by the General Assembly at its

forty-sixth session upon receipt of a report from the Secretary-General, which would, inter alia, indicate the expenditure performance up to that point, as well as such proposals as the Secretary-General might wish to make for the continuation of these offices beyond 31 December 1991.

4. For reasons given in his report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), 2/ the Secretary-General believes that the presence of offices of the Secretary-General in Baghdad and Tehran will need to be continued through 1992.

5. As stated in paragraph 7 of the report under consideration (A/C.5/46/64), and as detailed in annex I to the report, the estimated expenditure on the Offices for April to December 1991 will be $3,015,000. These requirements would be reflected in the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

6. On the basis of assumptions given in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report, the Secretary-General estimates that net requirements in 1992 will amount to $4,410,400. Details of these requirements are shown in annex III to the report.

7. In paragraph 10 of the report, the Secretary-General proposes financing the operation under section 2 of the proposed programme budget with an additional appropriation of $4,410,400, together with an appropriation of $363,100 under section 36 (staff assessment), offset by the same amount under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).

8. Proposed staffing requirements include the provision for continuation through 1992 of the 31 posts originally authorized for 1991, in addition to an increase of five posts (two P-5, one P-4, and two local level). Details of proposed staffing are shown in annex II to the document.

9. In view of the information given orally by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee does not object to the creation of a P-5 post in New York. However, with regard to the staffing requirements for the office in Baghdad, the Committee is not convinced that the operational requirements of that office warrant an additional P-5 post at this time. The Committee has no objection to the addition of a P-4 level post. With regard to the two new local level posts proposed, the Committee recommends that the requirement be met from redployment of local level ESCWA staff available in Baghdad.

10. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that should the General Assembly agree to regular budget financing of UNOSGI under section 2, that requirements for 1991 amounting to $3,015,000 be reflected in the second performance report on the programme budget for 1990-1991 and that an additional amount of $4,170,100 be appropriated under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, together with an additional appropriation of $325,400 under section 36, offset by the same amount under income section 1. The Advisory Committee further recommends that should this

operation be financed in the manner proposed by the Secretary-General, that the related requirements should be dealt with without recourse to the contingency fund.

11. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to review the structure of UNOSGI with a view to determining whether its mandate could be achieved through a more streamlined structure, within the resources that are available to the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the region.

Notes

1/ S/22280.

2/ S/23246.